

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 027825

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ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 /094 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFS;ERMAN

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. OLACHLY

NEA/ARN - MR. KORN

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

----- 062279

R 062317Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 027825

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANAA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
USCINCEUR

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS

FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FEBRUARY 6, 1975:

QUOTE: "IT HAS BEEN AGREED THAT SECRETARY OF STATE KISS-
INGER AND SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO WILL MEET IN
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, ON FEBRUARY 16-17 TO EXCHANGE VIEWS
ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST; AND THIS WAS AN AGREEMENT
WITH THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT RELEASE AT 11:0 O'CLOCK
OUR TIME AND WE RELEASED THE FOLLOWING AT NOON, IN AGREE-
MENT WITH THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED:
"SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL DEPART FROM WASHINGTON ON FEBRU-
ARY 9 AND WILL VISIT THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE
EAST DURING THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 10 TO 15: ISRAEL, EGYPT,
SYRIA, JODAN AND SAUDI ARABIA.

AND IN THE COURSE OF HIS RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES, THE
SECRETARY PLANS TO STOP BRIEFLY IN BONN, LONDON AND PARIS

IN ORDER TO CONFER WITH THE LEADERS OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 027825

OF GERMANY, GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE, RESPECTIVELY."

Q. IS HE STOPPING OVER SOMEWHERE ENROUTE TO ISRAEL, OR IS
HE GOING DIRECTLY?

A. HE IS GOING DIRECTLY. WILL REFUEL ON THE WAY, BUT
THERE IS NO BUSINESS STOP, FOR THE TIME --

Q. DO YOU HAVE THE DEPARTURE TIME THEREFOR?

A. IT WILL BE SUNDAY EVENING, AND YOU WILL BE INFORMED THE EXACT TIME, A LITTLE LATER.

A. I PRESUME IT WILL BE ABOUT 10:00 O'CLOCK.

Q. BOB, YOU ARE NOT GOING TO HAVE THAT SECOND TRIP DURING THE MID EAST PORTION OF THIS TRIP -- A SECOND VISIT TO ISRAEL, SHOULD THERE BE ANY PROGRESS ON THE EGYPTIAN SIDE OF THIS?

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU MENTIONED THESE COUNTRIES. YOU DON'T SAY HOW MANY TIMES HE IS GOING TO ANY ONE OF THEM. IT IS PLANNED TO GO TO ISRAEL TWICE, ISN'T IT? MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT WE WERE GOING TO VISIT ISRAEL TWICE.

A. THAT IS TRUE. EXCUSE ME, IT IS HERE, THAT HE WILL GO, BUT I WOULD RATHER LEAVE THE ACTUAL TIMING.

Q. BOB, WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE MAY HAPPEN?

Q. COULD WE PIN DOWN THE LOCATIONS A LITTLE MORE SPECIFICALLY?

FOR EXAMPLE, IS HE GOING TO CAIRO WHEN HE GOES TO EGYPT, OR ARE WE GOING TO ASWAN OR ALEXANDRIA?

A. HE WILL BE GOING TO CAIRO.

Q. BOB, DOES THE SECRETARY HAVE ANY APPOINTMENTS BACK HERE WHICH WOULD REQUIRE HIM TO BE BACK IN THE STATES BY THE 18TH OR 19TH OF THIS MONTH?

A. I DON'T KNOW. I'LL CHECK IT.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 027825

USUALLY, THE SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE AGAIN ON BACKGROUND AS WE HAVE LEARNED FROM PAST EXPERIENCE, CAN BE SHIFTED AROUND IF NECESSARY.

Q. WILL MRS. KISSINGER AND THE SECRETARY'S CHILDREN BE TRAVELING WITH HIM?

A. MRS. KISSINGER IS ACCOMPANYING THE SECRETARY.

Q. IS IT FAIR TO SAY THAT HIS VISITS IN EUROPE WILL BE DEALING MAINLY WITH THE RESULTS OF HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH THE MIDDLE EASTERN LEADERS AND WITH MR. GROMYKO?

A. I THINK THAT IT WOULD BE A VERY GOOD ASSUMPTION TO RECOGNIZE THAT HE WILL BE DISCUSSING THE RESULTS OF HIS

TRIP IN THE MIDDLE EAST. YES.

Q. BOB, WHY IS HE GOING ON THIS TRIP?

A. I THINK THAT HE IS GOING AT THE INVITATION OF THE PARTIES CONCERNED, BECAUSE HE CONSIDERS THAT THIS IS THE APPROPRIATE TIME TO GO -- AS HE PUT IT IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE THE OTHER DAY -- ON AN EXPLORATORY MISSION HERE, TO SEE WHAT FURTHER PROGRESS CAN BE MADE TOWARDS A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. THERE IS A LAW DEALING WITH THE ASSISTANCE TO THE MIDDLE EAST, THE SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FUND OF \$10 MILLION. AND AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE DEPARTMENT ;AS ASKED THE KEY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS NOT TO BRING UP THE PROVISION DEALING WITH THE SYRIAN JEWS WHO ARE BEING MOLESTED IN SYRIA. WAS THIS BECAUSE OF THE TRIP HE IS MAKING TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND HIS INTENTION OF GIVING A GIFT OF \$25 MILLION TO SYRIA.

CAN YOU TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT ALL THIS, WHICH WAS REPORTED IN A SECTION OF THE PRESS, AND ALSO I THINK WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO OTHERS HERE?

A. WELL, I THOUGHT THAT THIS WAS DISCUSSED IN A PREVIOUS BRIEFING, BUT I MAY BE MISTAKEN HERE. WE DO HAVE A PLAN FOR A \$25 MILLION WORTH OF AID TO SYRIA. I CAN GIVE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 027825

YOU A BREAKDOWN OF IT AFTERWARDS. IN CONNECTION WITH THE LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENT THAT YOU MENTIONED, ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT WE ARE IN VERY CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO SEE HOW WE CAN MOVE FORWARD WITH THE AID PLAN THAT WE HAVE FOR THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT.

Q. CAN YOU GIVE US ANY IMPRESSION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS ABOUT THIS?

A. NO, I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANY IMPRESSION.

Q. BOB, THE CARRIER "ENTERPRISE" AND ITS TASK FORCE WERE LAST REPORTED NEAR MOMBASA, AND THAT IS NOT VERY FAR FROM ETHIOPIA. HAVE THE SAILING ORDERS BEEN CHANGED FOR THE "ENTERPRISE", TO BRING IT A LITTLE CLOSER TO ETHIOPIA IF THERE IS A NEED TO EVACUATE AMERICANS THAT WAY?

A. I AM UNAWARE OF ANY SUCH ORDERS. I WOULD HAVE TO REFER YOU TO THE PENTAGON. LET ME SAY THAT ALL THE EVACUATIONS FROM ASMARA THUS FAR, GERRY, HAVE BEEN BY CHARTERED COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT TO ADDIS ABABA. AND, AS FAR AS I KNOW, THERE ARE NOT THAT MANY PEOPLE LEFT. I

WOULD ASSUME THAT THAT WOULD CONTINUE, THAT SYSTEM. I
HAVEN'T BEEN TOLD THERE IS ANY CHANGE IN THAT PLAN.

Q. BOB, ON SYRIA AGAIN, JUST FOR A MOMENT.

A. YES.

Q. IS THERE ANY PLAN TO MAKE USE OF THE REMAINING \$75
MILLION THAT YOU CAN TELL US ABOUT?

A. BARRY, I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. I MEAN, IS THERE A PROSPECT FOR AN ANNOUNCEMENT
WHILE WE ARE THERE, DO YOU THINK? OR DOES \$25 MILLION
TAKE CARE OF IT FOR A WHILE?

A. IT IS ALL THAT IS APPROPRIATED, ISN'T IT, AS FAR
AS I KNOW.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 027825

Q. I THOUGHT A HUNDRED MILLION WAS AUTHORIZED. AND IS
IT ONLY \$35 MILLION APPROPRIATED?

A. I THINK IT IS \$25 MILLION; THAT IS APPROPRIATED, SO
IT STAYS AT THAT. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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